

SOUTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER
FOURTH QUARTER REPORT-FY 2003
For the Period July 1 - September 30, 2003

Submitted by: Norman Bartoo, Acting Division Director, Fisheries Resources Division

Title of accomplishment or milestone: Adult Pacific sardine reproductive parameters for April 2003 compared to previous years spawning.

Current status: Canceled, funding was not available in time for an adult April 2003 Survey

Background information: In April 2003 during the daily sardine egg production survey from San Diego to San Francisco, a contract fishing vessel was to be used to sample adult sardine. We were going to analyze adult reproductive parameters include estimating sex ratio, female weight, batch fecundity, maturity, and spawning frequency. Maturity and spawning frequency required analysis of histological slides of sections of the ovaries.

Purpose of activity: Parameters were to be used to estimate sardine 2003 spawning biomass. We also wanted to revisit previous years adult data and update spawning frequency with new knowledge to improve stock assessment.

Description of accomplishment and significant results: Not completed because adult sardines were not collected due to lack of timely funding.

Significance of accomplishment: Although not completed, this does not diminish the significance of the work. When money is available, collection of adult Pacific sardines in April off California needs to be done to update maturity and spawning frequency analyses and to improve stock assessment.

Problems: Money for a contract fishing vessel to be used to sample adult sardine was not available in time to conduct a survey.

Contact: Beverly Macewicz (858) 546-7107